

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH • CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA 91746
Tel (562) 908-8400 • Fax (562) 908-0459



BRYCE YOKOMIZO
Director

LISA NUÑEZ
Chief Deputy



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August 23, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

SUBJECT: ACTION PLAN TO REDUCE CALWORKS WELFARE-TO-WORK SANCTIONS

This is to provide you with the third quarterly status report on the Sanction Action Plan. The Sanction Action Plan was provided to your Board on August 18, 2005.

Background

As you know, the Sanction Action Plan was created to reduce sanctions based on the report, "Study of Sanctions Among CalWORKs Participants in the County of Los Angeles: Who, When, and Why?" Pursuant to the study and through a collaborative process, various strategies from computer modifications to proactive outreach to GAIN participants were developed and are being implemented. The strategies are grouped into short-term, mid-term and long-term action items.

Short-Term Actions

The short-term actions which involve proactively contacting participants to engage them in welfare-to-work activities have been implemented. The major short-term action item, the GAIN Sanction Home Visit Outreach project which provides intervention through an outreach strategy, continues to prove successful. For the period November 2005 through June 2006, there were approximately 21,100 contacts made by either telephone or by a home visit. Of this number, 16,460 individuals (approximately 78%) agreed to participate in their current activity.

Mid-Term and Long-Term Actions

The Department continues to work on the mid-term and long-term actions. These actions include: providing more effective means of transmitting program information to GAIN participants, expediting transportation, increasing access to child care and computer enhancements to allow improved service delivery to participants. Many of these strategies target barriers identified for non-attendance to the first welfare-to-work activity which is orientation and appraisal (OAP).

During focus studies conducted with participants, the participants indicated that both transportation and child care for the OAP appointment were obstacles to their participation. As a result, recent actions to alleviate these issues have been implemented. These include:

- The Home Interview Program Eligibility Worker (EW) is providing information on accessing transportation and child care services during the intake process.
- Computer modifications have been completed which provide a means for the GAIN Services Worker to easily reschedule the first OAP appointment for her/his participant if requested.
- A pilot was implemented this month at GAIN Region V which will provide money for transportation to the OAP appointment in advance.

In addition, a pilot will be implemented in the near future at GAIN Region IV to ease the child care needs of participants with OAP appointments. One-day child care will be available and paid for by the County at the child care center located within the same building as the Region. This fall, additional strategies will be implemented which will address the scheduling of OAP appointments in consultation with participants.

Early Indicators

Implementation of the Sanction Action Plan is already showing positive results. Data indicators reflect that the strategies implemented are having an impact on the overall sanction rate. The number of sanctioned GAIN participants in August 2005 has been reduced by 15.9 percent as of June 2006. We expect to see further progress as we continue to work with the plan strategies.

Future Reports to the Board

I will continue to provide your Board with quarterly progress reports on the implementation of the Sanction Action Plan.

BY:fa

c: Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors